

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29535 / S1317

RS29535 This bill creates an Education Savings Account for parents of kindergarten age students that do not want to send their child to kindergarten; yet plan on sending their child to the first grade in public school. The bill sets up an Education Savings Account, defines permissible uses of the funds, and qualifications to participate in the program.

FISCAL NOTE

The cost of the program is \$2,000 per student. Funds are deposited into the parent's Education Savings Account in the fall (\$1,000), the school district receives \$500 for administrative costs and costs of giving the kindergarten screener and the spring IRI, then another \$500 will be deposited into the parent's ESA account upon passage of the spring IRI with a proficient or better. The cost of the program is driven by the number of parents that use this option which may be between 500 and 1,000 children. The cost would then be between \$1 million and \$2 million with another \$50,000 for the state board of education to administer the program. However, if a parent decides to use this option rather than attend full-day kindergarten the savings per child would be \$5,200 for full-day kindergarten minus \$2,000 leaving \$3,200 in savings. If 500 parents choose this option, it would save the state \$1.6 million over the cost of all-day kindergarten.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).